

FOOD FROM GARDENS

MINISTRY'S HELP FOR NOVICES

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

Having appealed to gardeners to grow more vegetables the Minister of Agriculture has now issued a bulletin—No. 1 of the Grow More series—telling them how to do it. The bulletin is in simple language ; elementary points of cultivation are explained for the benefit of the many novices who will now try to grow their own vegetables for the first time, and there are hints and tips for all.

The beginning of the war coincided with the time when gardeners have usually finished the sowing of seeds of winter vegetables, and except for a row or two of early broad beans, the year is now too old for seed sowing. That must be left till the early months of next year ; meanwhile, the ground can be got into order, dug, redug, thoroughly broken up and manured to increase its fertility.

Except for stable dung, which is now beyond the reach of many gardeners, the subject of crop fertility and the general use of fertilizers is a closed book to many amateurs. The bulletin tells them so clearly how, when, and where to use potash, phosphorus, ammonia, and the rest, that there can be no room for doubt about it. The result should be a general increase next summer in the production of vegetables, though that will depend to some extent on the weather.

Gardening has been described as a perpetual fight against destructive pests and diseases. The severity of the fight depends largely on the excellence of the cultivation, but gardeners should be always on the look-out for signs of the enemy. To help in defence and attack, the bulletin includes a clear explanation of the routine measures that are necessary in the control of pests and diseases. The bulletin, which costs 3d., and is published by the Stationery Office, is remarkable for its lucidity.

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